

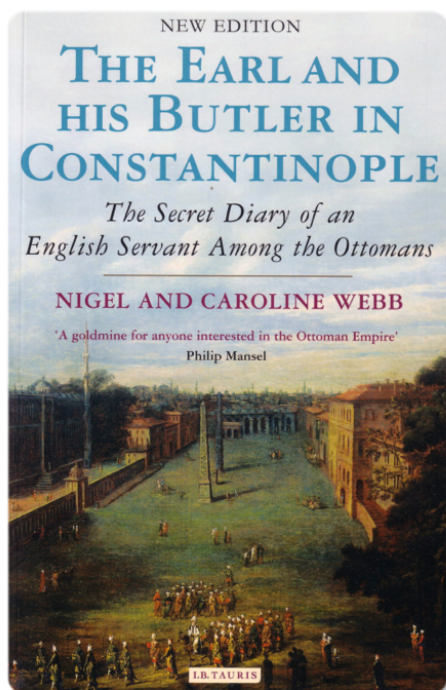
History of Legini Press – website www.leginipress.co.uk

Legini Press was the business name of the partnership Nigel Webb and Caroline Webb, authors and publishers, from 2006 to 2021.

The website continued to exist as a source of information and for possible sales, with Caroline Webb, only, trading, from 2021 to 2023.

The publications described on the website were as follows:

1. *The Earl and his butler in Constantinople* by Nigel & Caroline Webb



In 1729, George Hay, 8th Earl of Kinnoull, a Scottish aristocrat whose behaviour in political, financial and personal matters had caused some disquiet in England, was appointed ambassador to Constantinople, where he remained until 1737. Leaving his wife and family at their Yorkshire home, Brodsworth, he departed for Turkey with a large retinue, including a certain Mr Samuel Medley, aged 62, as his ever-loyal butler who kept a diary there from 1733 to 1736. From official documents and private family letters, the authors have built up a brief but vivid biography of Lord Kinnoull in the years leading up to his arrival in Turkey – his advantageous marriage to the Lord High Treasurer's daughter; his imprisonment on suspicion of Jacobite sympathies; his involvement in the South Sea Bubble; his fall from grace and his financial embarrassment; his unexpected and improbable appointment as ambassador. From his despatches and from the revealing and colourful pages of Medley's diary, the authors have pieced together a lively account of the extraordinary progress of Lord Kinnoull's embassy and the misjudgements and intrigues leading to his recall. Illustrations include contemporary oil paintings by Jean-Baptiste Vanmour of the Ottoman court and the reception of ambassadors.

The full text of the diary, and also of Medley's quotations from his reading matter, which are of special importance to those with an interest in the English literature of the Augustan age and its readership, was made available to researchers on the website both as a photographic reproduction and as a full transcription with notes. These are now available on the internet archive as two pdf files under this link: <https://archive.org/details/sam-diary-actual/SamDiaryActual/>

The first edition, published by Legini Press in 2006, is sold out but a second edition, published by I. B. Tauris in 2008, is available from Bloomsbury with ISBN numbers as follows: ISBN -10 1845117824 and ISBN -13 9781845117825.

'A gold mine for anyone interested in the Ottoman Empire'.

Philip Mansel, author of *Constantinople: city of the World's Desire, 1453-1924*.

'Nigel and Caroline Webb have built up a detailed and vivid account of life in the embassy and the expatriate community. They are prodigious researchers and have produced a remarkable book ... [which] will be of great interest to scholars and historians, and will fascinate those who love diaries'.

Claire Tomalin, author of *Samuel Pepys: The Unequalled Self*

Caroline Webb was born in India, and lived in Malaya and Africa as a child. After reading History at London University, she enjoyed a period of historical research and teaching in Tanzania before settling in Rutland to bring up her family. She was a Citizens' Advice Bureaux manager for some years; then returned to university, in Cambridge and Verona, to read History of Art with Italian and is followed this with an MA at the Open University.

Nigel Webb, who was educated at Bradfield and Cambridge, is something of a polymath and has extensive experience as an author and series editor of educational books. He came to historical research after retirement from a career in mathematics teaching in Tanzania and at Oakham School in Rutland. He has also participated in an Italian national research project in economics.

The authors are worldwide travellers but have a special interest in the people, the places, the art and the architecture of Italy, which they frequently visit.

2. *Visitors to Verona* by Caroline Webb



Even before the advent of mass tourism, Verona was a popular destination with travellers, including those undertaking the popular 'Grand Tour' across Europe. In this book, Caroline Webb compares the experiences of travellers from the era of Shakespeare to the years following the incorporation of the Veneto into the new kingdom of Italy in 1866. She considers their reasons for visiting Verona as well as their experiences and expectations once they arrived. The majority of English visitors between 1670 and 1760 were young members of the aristocracy, accompanied by tutors, who arrived on their way to or from Rome, as part of a 'Grand Tour' intended to 'finish' their classical education. With the Industrial Revolution in the second half of the eighteenth century, and the growing wealth of the upper middle classes, the number of visitors to Verona increased, although this tourism was interrupted after the invasion of Italy by Napoleon in the later 1790s. After 1815 and the allied victory at Waterloo there was a new flood of visitors, previously deprived of the opportunity of continental travel during the Napoleonic wars. As the nineteenth century progressed, especially with the arrival of the railway, an

increasing number of visitors appeared from across Europe and even from across the Atlantic, keen to explore the fabled city of Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet. In comparing a myriad of varied accounts, this book provides an unrivalled perspective on the history of one of Italy's most seductive cities.

ISBN -13 9781784536473 2016

'This book is a delight to read and provides a charming and fresh picture of Verona's daily life in past centuries. The author combines facts and travellers' accounts with masterly skill in a cohesive and lively framework.'

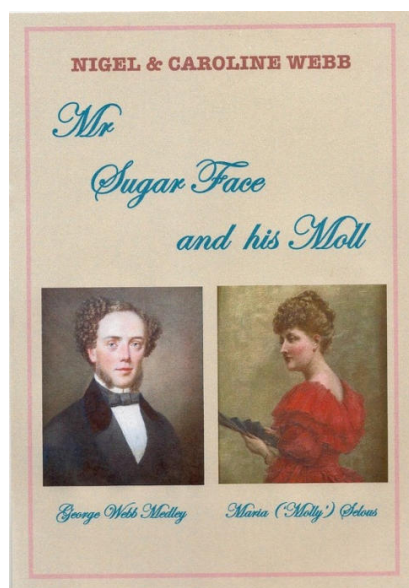
Professor Giandemetrio Marangoni, University of Verona.

'This is a richly informative cornucopia of travel accounts of one of Italy's most fascinating cities'.

Dr Edward Chaney, Professor of Fine and Decorative Arts at Southampton Solent University.

Caroline Webb graduated in History from the University of London and read Italian and Art History in Cambridge and Verona. She has worked as an historical researcher and teacher.

3. *Mr Sugar Face and his Moll* by Nigel & Caroline Webb



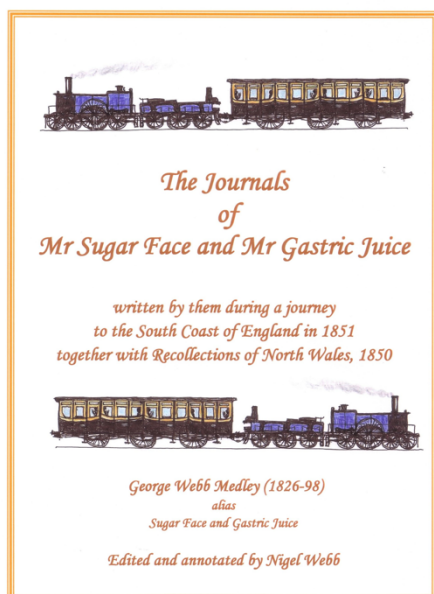
The story of George Webb Medley, a.k.a. Mr Sugar Face (1828-1898) and his wife Maria ('Molly') Selous (1839-1919).

A principled, enterprising Victorian, George had the vision, ambition, wealth-creating skills, good sense and good luck, to earn a fortune, investing heavily in their home region near Okehampton in Devon. In following his story, we visit pre-abolition Jamaica, where George spent his childhood; England's south coast and the Rhine, where he holidayed, keeping entertaining diaries; Simpson's 'Grand Cigar Divan', where he played chess with the best players in the world; the Stock Exchange, during the railway mania, where he made his fortune; the Cobden Society for which he was a respected author on Free Trade. We meet Molly, her famous artistic forebears and a future Royal Academician sponsored by her. We join the couple homebuilding and entertaining in Chislehurst, Kent; thence to Devon, with the arrival of the railway – no coincidence -bringing local prosperity and creating a fine Victorian garden at Winsford Tower, now 'Winsford Walled Garden' and 'Anglers' Paradise'. In George's memory, Molly commissioned the renowned architect Charles Voysey to design Winsford Cottage Hospital, now restored by The Landmark Trust, and endowed a George Webb Medley scholarship at Oxford University, benefitting Harold Wilson and many famous economists.

Published by Legini Press, 2019, ISBN 978 0 9553311 2 1

Now available at <https://archive.org/details/mr-sugar-face-and-his-moll>

4. *The journals of Mr Sugar Face and Mr Gastric Juice* by George Webb Medley (1826-98), edited by Nigel Webb



This feast of Victorian frivolity was written by 25-year-old stockbroker George Webb Medley, holidaying with his sister Amelia in the summer of 1851. He masquerades alternatively as the positive and enthusiastic Mr Sugar Face, determined to 'smile at little annoyances and to make himself as agreeable as possible' and the negative and pessimistic Mr Gastric Juice, who is 'pleased with nobody and nothing' and believes 'society is one big humbug'. Follow their adventures by train to Bristol, Exeter, Plymouth and Devonport; Totnes and Dartmouth; Torquay and Teignmouth; Sidmouth, Lyme and Charmouth; Southampton and the Isle of Wight; with an improbable finale badger-baiting in Bagshot! Nigel Webb, a descendant of Amelia Medley, has edited the diary, and provides an entertaining commentary, complementing the diary entries with explanation, information and quotations from other contemporary sources. The original diary is generously illustrated with contemporary prints which have been reproduced in the text. Eighty-four pages, A4, extensively illustrated with contemporary prints and paintings, some in colour.

Published by Legini Press in 2008. Now available as a pdf from: <https://archive.org/details/medley-george-webb-sugar-face-1850-1-the-journals>

5. The diary of Sarah Ogden (1842-51) edited by Nigel Webb.

Not published in printed form.



Sarah Ogden (1817-95) was a daughter of Benjamin Cort, a prosperous ironfounder of Leicester, and was brought up in a fine eight bedroom house in Welford Place. Her diary starts with her marriage in 1842 to her first cousin Benjamin Cort Ogden, an employee of a Leicester bank. The bank's collapse the following year, however, led to Ogden's appointment as manager of the Stamford, Spalding and Boston Banking Co. in Uppingham, where they lived for the next five years. In 1848, he opened a branch of that bank in Grantham, where they settled. Sarah's diary ends in 1851 when they were living at 18, High Street, Grantham with a groom and two servants. The Ogdens were a prosperous middleclass couple, had no children and were Strict Baptists; the diary gives a vivid picture of their social life in Leicester, Uppingham and Grantham. The diary has been transcribed and annotated by Nigel Webb, a Great Great Great grandson of Sarah's father. Uppingham historian Peter Lane has kindly provided, as an appendix, a commentary and notes on individuals appearing in

the diary for the Ogdens' period of residence in Uppingham.

The scans of diary and the transcription with notes can be found at

<https://archive.org/details/sarah-ogdens-diary-1842-51-transcription-with-intro-notes/Sarah%20Ogden%27s%20diary%201842-51%20scans/>

The transcription and notes only are available at

<http://www.rutlandhistory.org/pdf/sarahogden'sdiary.pdf>

6. Five years in The White Man's Grave – an education officer in Nigeria 1928-33

by Geoffrey Webb, edited by Nigel Webb; published by Legini Press, 2008.

*Five Years
in
The White Man's Grave*
An education officer in Nigeria, 1928-33



by Geoffrey Webb

Most of Geoffrey Webb's account of his period in Nigeria - Bornu, Zaria, Kaduna, Bida, Ilorin, Omu - was first published, in instalments, illustrated with his photographs, in the Leicester Evening Mail, in November 1936. Here is the full version, with additional notes by his sons Adrian and Nigel who both served in Africa. Proficient in Hausa, Geoffrey Webb took a strong and well-observed interest in local customs, as is evident from his account. Later, in collaboration with Captain Frank William Taylor, he wrote *Labarun Al'adun Hausawa da zantatukansu* (Accounts and conversations describing certain customs of the Hausas), published by Oxford University Press in 1932 as No. 7 in 'Taylor's Fulani-Hausa series' of language books and readers.

Distinguished historian and ethnographer Anthony Kirk-Greene writes: *'This is a really delightful memoir - a first class read. Unusual among the Colonial Service memoirs which have become familiar reading since the 1980s, here is a classic of a much earlier era. It is the almost tangible intensity of personal relations with Nigerians as much as the standard pleasures (and problems) of life and society on a small station, that will emerge with*

poignancy and pleasure to grip many a reader..'

Available at <https://archive.org/details/five-years-in-the-white-mans-grave-nigeria-1928-33>

7. The cricket journal of Geoffrey Webb, 1908-39, including the Navy, Nigeria, Leicestershire and Clubs

Unpublished in printed form.

The Cricket Journal of Geoffrey Webb 1908-39
The Royal Navy; English Club Cricket; Nigeria; Leicestershire
Et
Appendix 1: How to run The Leicestershire County Cricket Club
Appendix 2: Geoffrey Webb's Cricket Photographs 1920-33



Lieutenant Commander Arthur Geoffrey Gascoyne Webb, RN. (Retired.), O.B.E., (1896-1981), played for the Royal Navy, Kent 2nd XI, Incogniti, Band of Brothers, Nigeria and Leicestershire, of which he was secretary 1933-8. This is his 'logbook', containing much fascinating detail, mainly in the form of press cuttings.

There are also two appendices of special interest:

Appendix 1: *How to run the Leicestershire County Cricket Club*, written to help his successor.

Appendix 2: Geoffrey Webb's cricket team photographs 1920-33

Available at: <https://archive.org/details/the-cricket-journal-of-geoffrey-webb-1908-39>

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Further items which have also been placed by Nigel and Caroline Webb on the Internet Archive:

8. The Battle of Jutland and after – drawings and paintings by Geoffrey Webb, 1916-23



Arthur Geoffrey Gascoyne Webb 7.8.1896-6.4.1981

Born at Newington, Kent, 7.8.1896, he was educated at Wellington College and entered the Royal Navy in 1914. He served in the Battle of Jutland as a Midshipman. When the size of the Navy was cut, he left it as a Lieutenant Commander, and spent five years teaching and cricket coaching. He married Audrey Haggard, a niece of the late Sir Rider Haggard, who bore him a son, Adrian. A keen

sportsman, his great love was cricket. He played for the Navy, was a member of the M.C.C., and also played for a number of clubs including Trinity Tom Tits, Incogniti and Free Foresters, and later for Nigeria. In 1928 he joined the Colonial Office and served in Nigeria until 1932. Becoming proficient in the Hausa language, he and a friend wrote a book on Hausa customs, and he translated stories for use in schools. He returned to England after the death of his wife and was appointed secretary to Leicestershire County Cricket Club, playing for Leicestershire and the Gentlemen of Leicestershire. In 1935 he married Iris Thompson, who bore him a second son, Nigel. He left Leicestershire to work for the British Sailors' Society, of which he eventually became General Secretary. Recalled to the Navy in World War II, he served in anti-submarine trawlers in the Dover Straits until released on special orders to carry on welfare work for seamen. He finally joined King George's Fund for Sailors in 1944 as Deputy Secretary and Appeals Secretary, and organised the Lord Mayor's Appeal for the Royal and Merchant Navies. He stayed with King George's Fund for Sailors until his retirement in 1961, having been awarded the O.B.E. in the Coronation Honours in 1953. He retired to Suffolk for 12 years, finally moving to Oakham in 1974. A successful artist, working mainly in pastel, he exhibited at the Pastel Society exhibitions for a number of years. He made these drawings between 1916 and 1923, during his service in the Royal Navy.

Available at: <https://archive.org/details/the-battle-of-jutland-and-after>

Traditional stories (labaran gargajiya) told by Mallam Dan Ja of Katsina, Nigeria, in 1929

Recorded by Geoffrey Webb, Education Officer

Geoffrey Webb's Introduction :

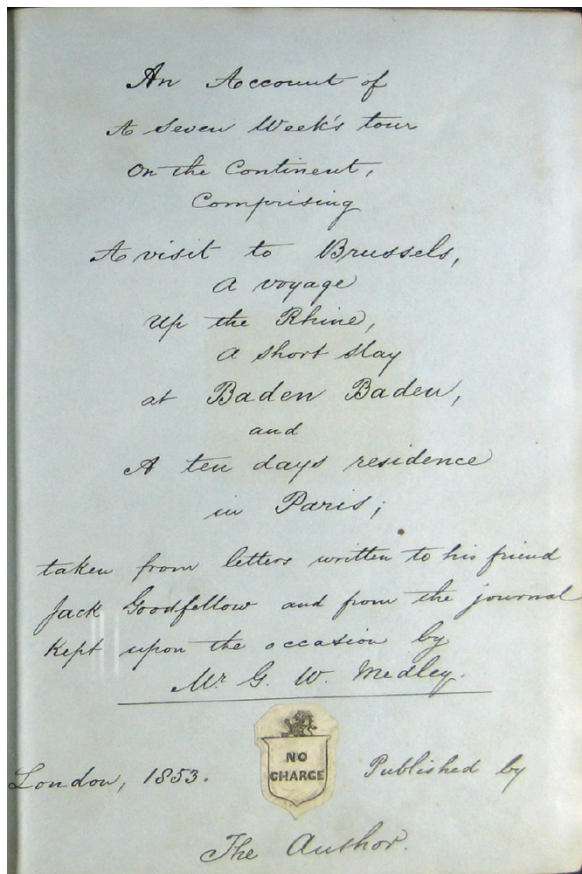
I took these stories down from Mallam Dan Ja, a native teacher of Katsina, Northern Nigeria.

I translated them as he told them to me, and have only altered my original wording a little, in order that they may be readable. In all other respects they are exactly as Mallam Dan Ja recounted them. Many of the natives' stories are widespread in Nigeria, so it is just possible that one or two of these are already in print. If this is so, I apologise, and can only say that I have not 'borrowed' them.

Note: A Mallam is a learned man or a teacher, while the Jackal (in stories) is always considered to be the Mallam among the animals.

Available at: <https://archive.org/details/webb-geoffrey-stories-from-mallam-dan-ja>

The Rhine and Paris, 1853 – an account of a holiday in 1853 by George Webb Medley, with notes by Nigel Webb



A full account of the life of George Webb Medley (1826-98) will be found in *Mr Sugar Face and his Moll*, by Nigel & Caroline Webb, Legini Press, 2019. (See above)

In 1853, George was on the threshold of earning a substantial fortune as a dealer on the Stock Exchange and he was accompanied on this holiday by a Stock Exchange colleague, though a broker rather than a dealer, John Francis Holcombe Read, and another friend, Webster, about whom we know little.

'Jack Goodfellow' may be a pseudonym for George's brother John, though there is no direct evidence for this.

The diary is extensively illustrated with steel engravings and hand-coloured lithographs.

Summary itinerary:

6.7.1853 St. Katherine's Wharf, by the Panther to Ostend: Hotel des Bains.

7.7 Ostend to Brussels via Mechlin, Bruges, Ghent, by rail.

Stayed 7-12 at Brussels; excursions to Wauxhall (8.7), Waterloo by mail (11.7), Zoo (11.7).

12.7 Brussels to Chaudfontaine, via Liege, by train.

13.7 Chaudfontaine to Cologne, via Aix la Chapelle, by train.

14.7 Cologne to Bonn by train.

15.7 Bonn to Konigswater by boat. Hotel de l'Europe for 2 nights; excursions to Drachenfels – the top (16.7), Rolandseck, by horse, Godesburg Castle (17.7).

18.7 Konigswater to Coblenz via Linz by boat.

19.7 Ehrenbreitstein – top.

20.7 Coblenz to Bieberich by boat. Thence to Wiesbaden by coach. Capellan; Braubach; Boppard; Bingen; St.Goar; Oberwesel; Mayence.

20.7 Bieberich to Wiesbaden.

21.7 Drive to Neroberg; the Kursall. Train to Castel for Mayence. Dom Drusus Tower.

22.7 – 26.7 Mayence.

27.7 Boat Mayence to St Goar.

27.7 – 29.7 Back by boat to Coblentz.

1.8 Back by boat to Bieberich and hence Wiesbaden.

2.8 Train Wiesbaden to Frankfort. Drive to Saxenhausen.

4.8 Train via Darmstadt to Heidelberg. Drive to Mönchhoff, towards Neuenheim.

6.8 Train to BadenBaden via Carlsruhe. Court of Baden Hotel. Drive to Alten Schloss.

10.8 Drive to New Eberstein.

11.8 Train to Strasburg. Hotel de la Ville de Paris. Cathedral.

12.8 Train to Nancy Hotel de l'Europe.

13.8 Train to Paris. Hotel Windsor. Dinner in Palais Royale. Café aux 3 frères provencaux. Louvres. Hotel des Invalides. Café de la Regence for coffee and chess (14.8). Extensive description of the fêtes of 15th August. Hotel et Palais des beaux arts. Hotel Cluny Drive to Vincennes. Jardin Mabille.

21.8 Carriage to Versailles via Sèvres. Dinner at Hotel de France Versailles.

23.8 Train Paris – Dieppe via Rouen. Dinner at Grand Hotel des Bains. Dieppe-Newhaven by night ferry. Train to London (24.8).

Available from: <https://archive.org/details/medley-george-webb-1853-rhine-paris-diarynotes>